

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04029 271710Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SANTIAGO 4029

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FOR ARA, D AND L ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SHUM CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: SANTIAGO 3980

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY 25
13 QUESTIONS FROM JUDGE CARMEN CANALES (INVESTIGATING THE
MICHAEL TOWNLEY EXPULSION) ADDRESSED TO FBI AGENTS SCHERRER
AND CORNICK. WORKING WITH LAWYER ETCHEBERRY, SCHERRER AND
CORNICK PREPARED REPLIES TO ALL QUESTIONS AND WE SENT
THESE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FOR TRANSMITTAL TO JUDGE
CANALES, THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 26. IN THEIR REPLIES, BOTH
SCHERRER AND CORNICK STRESSED THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THEIR
RESPONSES. WE HAVE POUCHED COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND
REPLIES (AND COVERING FOREIGN OFFICE AND EMBASSY NOTES)
TO ARA/AND/CH. BRIEF SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS AND REPLIES
FOLLOWS.

2. QUESTIONS 1 AND 2: REASONS FOR PRESENCE OF SCHERRER AND
CORNICK IN SANTIAGO IN EARLY APRIL. ANSWERS: TO PURSUE
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INVESTIGATION OF LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATIONS AND INFORM
GOC OF OUTSTANDING ARREST WARRANT AGAINST TOWNLEY; TO ENSURE
THE APPEARANCE OF TOWNLEY BEFORE THE GRAND
JURY INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION, BUT NOT HIS PRESENCE AT
A SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL TRIAL. QUESTION 3: WHAT GOC OFFICIALS
DEALT WITH REGARDING THE TOWNLEY EXPULSION. ANSWER: A NOTE WAS
SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REGARDING TOWNLEY'S POSSIBLE

EXPULSION. QUESTIONS 4 AND 5: ACTIVITIES OF SCHERRER AND CORNICK BETWEEN 2000 HOURS APRIL 7 AND 1000 HOURS APRIL 8. ANSWERS: SCHERRER AND CORNICK WERE INFORMED AT 0925 APRIL 8 BY PHONE AT HOTEL THAT TOWNLEY WAS ON WAY TO AIRPORT AND WOULD BE LEAVING ON AIR ECUATORIANA FLIGHT IN ABOUT ONE HOUR; THEY THEMSELVES DEPARTED FOR AIRPORT AT 0930; FROM 2000 APRIL 7 UNTIL DEPARTURE FOR AIRPORT APRIL 8 THEY WERE AT SAN CRISTOBAL-SHERATON HOTEL.

3. QUESTIONS 6 AND 7: ACTIVITIES AT AIRPORT. ANSWERS: SCHERRER AND CORNICK WAITED AT THE FOOT OF THE BOARDING LADDER OF AIR ECUATORIANA FLIGHT 052; TOWNLEY WAS RECEIVED ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT; NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT VEHICLE TRANSPORTED TOWNLEY TO THE PLANE OR BY WHOM HE WAS ACCOMPANIED. QUESTIONS 8 AND 9: MANNER OF PURCHASING TOWNLEY'S TICKET. ANSWER: NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCEPT THAT THE ADDITIONAL COST FROM MIAMI TO NEW YORK WAS SUBSEQUESNTLY BILLED TO THE FBI IN WASHINGTON. QUESTION 10: WAS TOWNLEY HANDCUFFED AND DID HE RESIST BOARDING PLANE. ANSWER: TOWNLEY WAS HANDCUFFED; HE DID NOT SAY HE WAS TRAVELING VOLUNTARILY NOR DID HE SAY HE WAS TRAVELING AGAINST HIS WILL; HE AT NO TIME OFFERED RESISTANCE NOR WAS HE FORCED TO BOARD THE PLANE. QUESTION 11: SECURITY MEASURES DURING FLIGHT. ANSWER: NO SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES DURING FLIGHT. QUESTION 12: DID TOWNLEY TRAVEL UNDER NAME OF ANDRES WILSON. ANSWER: NO KNOWLEDGE BUT SCHERRER INFORMED ECUATORIANA FLIGHT ATTENDANT OF TOWNLEY'S TRUE NAME.

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4. QUESTION 13: WHERE IS TOWNLEY CURRENTLY LOCATED IN THE U.S. ANSWER: IN CUSTODY OF U.S. MARSHALL'S SERVICE IN THE WASHINGTON AREA. ANY QUESTIONS FOR TOWNLEY SHOULD BE DIRECTED THROUGH HIS ATTORNEY, SEYMOUR GLANZER.
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